

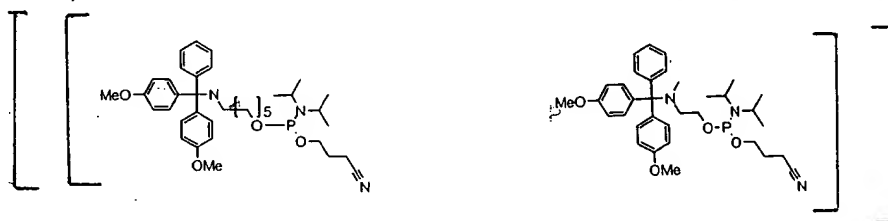
Amendments To The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application captioned above.

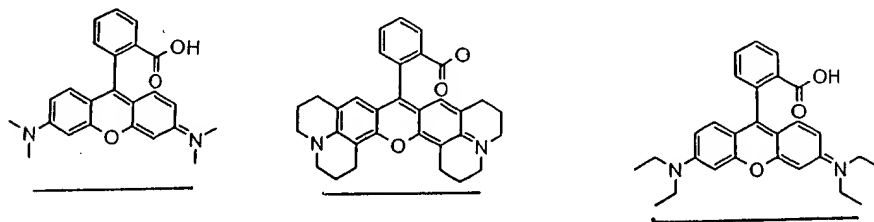
Listing Of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of labeling oligonucleotides, comprising:

- a) providing: i) a solid support-bound oligonucleotide comprising an amino group,
ii) a bifunctional linker arm ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~



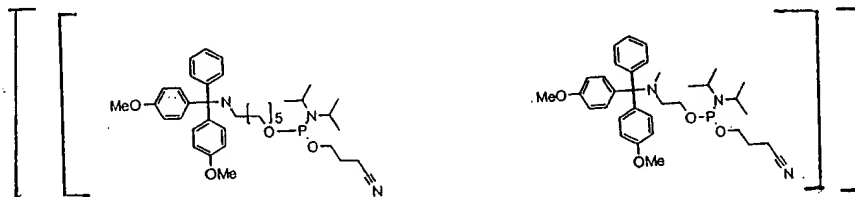
comprising a hydrocarbon, a protected secondary amine, and a hydroxyl group;
and iii) an *in situ* unactivated label selected from the group consisting of:



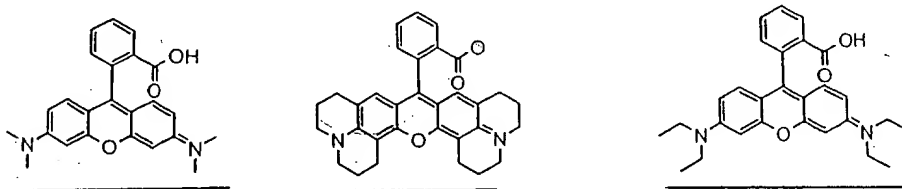
- b) reacting said solid support-bound oligonucleotide with said bifunctional linker arm to produce a support-bound, linker-oligonucleotide;
c) reacting said *in situ* unactivated label to create an *in situ* activated label; and
d) reacting said support-bound linker-oligonucleotide with said activated label to produce a labeled support-bound protected oligonucleotide.
2. (cancelled without prejudice)
3. (cancelled without prejudice)

4. (currently amended) A method of labeling oligonucleotides, comprising:

- a) providing: i) a solid support-bound oligonucleotide comprising an amino group,
 ii) a bifunctional linker arm ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~



comprising a hydrocarbon, a protected secondary amine, and a hydroxyl group;
 and iii) an *in situ* unactivated label selected from the group consisting of:



- b) reacting said solid support-bound oligonucleotide with said bifunctional linker arm to produce a support-bound, protected linker-oligonucleotide;
 c) reacting said *in situ* unactivated label to create an *in situ* activated label;
 d) deprotecting the amino group of said support-bound, protected linker-oligonucleotide to produce a support-bound deprotected linker-oligonucleotide, and;
 e) reacting said support-bound deprotected linker-oligonucleotide with said activated label to produce a labeled support-bound protected oligonucleotide.